

Kyodan

Kyodan News Letter

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IN JAPAN

CHRISTIAN CENTER

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DIALOGUE WITH ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

A delegate of the United Church of Christ in Japan has been invited to attend the Vatican Council as an observer for the past three times. On January 10, Father Thomas Stransky from the Vatican visited the Kyodan carrying with him an autographed letter from Cardinal Bea.

Responding to the trend of these events, the Kyodan has established the Committee for Corporation with the Catholic Church as pro tempore in order to make a study of ecumenical problems and to carry on dialogue with the Catholic Church, which is expecting to be appointed legally by the General Assembly this coming fall.

Moderator Omura has expressed his views on the dialogue with the Catholic Church as follows:

"In the second Vatican Council, the Catholic Church has recognized frankly that the Christian Church still belongs to the minority group in the world, and in terms of responsibility toward the urgent problems to be solved in this present world, and toward the future of mankind the Catholic Church and the Protestant Church have to cooperate to cope with these problems. I agree with this positive way of thinking. In order to save the world from the very present crisis, dialogue between the Protestant Church and the Catholic Church should be restored.

To be concrete, we have to promote cooperative dialogue with the Catholic Church on the local church level, particularly the Kyodan, as a united church in Japan should feel a sense of mission in bringing about union among the Protestant Churches of Japan."

Following is a joint release addressed by the chairmen of both churches as the result of the first Ecumenical Round Table Conference, held on May 31 at Oriens Institute for Religious Research in Tokyo.

1. In the matter of Faith and Order, the Conference wishes to endorse the Faith and Order study circles and the Ecumenical Dialogue groups.
2. a. The Conference wishes to encourage the continuation of the Prayer Week for Christian Unity and calls for corporation to that effect.
b. The Conference wishes to see a committee established which would prepare a common translation of the Lord's Prayer for use at ecumenical gatherings.
c. The Conference keenly aware of the need for a common Bible, appeals to Protestant and Catholic translators and publishers towards the preparation of a common Japanese version of Holy Scripture.
3. The Conference desires the establishment of a joint committee to study methods for promoting the evangelization in Japan.
4. The Conference desires that the organizations concerned with education and social welfare should foster mutual contact and corporation.

UNIVERSITY STUDENT IN JAPAN

Today 23% of all high school graduates in Japan go on to university. This represents an increase of 7% over five years ago.

Such a radical increase in the student population has produced various problems. On one hand, through education by mass media, students have been estranged from their professors and the level of university education has been so lowered that there is not much difference in the education level of university students and working young people. On the other hand, criticizing university mass-production education, the student has tended toward radicalism.

In particular, roused by problems in connection with tuition increases, dormitory management, and the moving university buildings, student organizations have started to move. Their resistance caused universities to be paralysed and classes stopped. An educational stalemate had appeared throughout the country in both national and private universities.

Since we have experienced in the past threats to liberty of learning and thought at school, we have been anxious lest self-government of the university and liberty of learning should be taken away on such occasion. For this reason, it seems to us, the students balk at each of the problems mentioned above, and express in addition their dissatisfaction at the management of the university instructional content.

Moreover, the fact that the university has not been able to settle the problems within its campus has been prolonged, has exposed the weak aspect of the university in Japan. Now the question as to the meaning of university self-government is one of the greatest problems which confront us today.

Under such a complicated situation, the Student Christian Movement in Japan has been facing difficulties similar to those in other countries. It is the task of the Student Evangelism Committee today to cope with these problems.

The Committee has been studying these problem under the following three heads:

- 1) Task of the University: Where should Christian professors in leading positions on the faculty, find their missions as Christians and how should their mission be carried out ?
- 2) Task of the Church : How can the guidance of faith be made real to the student ?
- 3) Task of the SCM : In the past the SCM on the campus was carried out from the standpoint of "Community as Witness." How should the Witness on the campus be manifested today ?

In particular the Student Evangelism Committee will cooperate with the United SCM Policy Committee (which was organized by the seven denominational churches of the Protestant Church), the Student YMCA & YWCA, and with the Church and University Study Committee, (which was formed by the representatives of denominational churches including the Catholic Church) the Student YMCA & YWCA, student center, university Christin professors' groups, and it will positively join in the study of programs and projects sponsored by these Committee, The Kyodan as a whole will hold frequent joint conferences of persons in charge of student evangelism in each Kyoku, ministers, professors, student centers and Student YMCA & YWCA, in order to wrestle jointly with the task of student evangelism.

1966 JAPAN SUMMER EVANGELISM PROJECT

The 1966 Japan Summer Evangelism Project is to be conducted from June 29 to August 15 in 14 centers in the Tohoku District of the Kyodan, under its director, Rev. Franklin J. Hinkamp of the Reformed Church of America. He and seven of the fourteen missionaries were accompanied by their wives, and the party arrived at Haneda Airport on Thursday, June 23, at 7:25 p.m.

The group received an official welcome by representatives of the Kyodan, led by Dr. Isamu Omura, Moderator, at the Yushima KaiKan, on June 24th, the 25th Anniversary of the Founding of the Kyodan. Other events scheduled for Tokyo were an orientation session on the 24th, preaching at various Kyodan churches on Sunday 26th, and a reception that afternoon at Tokyo Union Church by the Tokyo area Interboard missionaries.

Going to Sendai on the 27th, via Nikko, and receiving further orientation there on matters of regional interest, the members of the group separated to their centers on the 29th.

L-Type Evangelism Projects, as these are called, were conducted previously in the Tokyo District in 1961, in Kyushu in 1962, in Hokkaido in 1963, and in Hyogo District and the Higashi and Nishi Chugoku Districts in 1964, in a total of 60 centers. These centers consists of a single church in most cases, and two churches in a few. An intensive program of preaching and visitation evangelism is conducted by the visiting missionaries, local pastors and members, and the interpreters in cooperation, over a 50 day period.

The forerunner of the L-Type Evangelism is the "Lacour Special Evangelism Crusade" conducted from 1954 to 1959 in 34 centers, for the purpose of establishing new churches, under the leadership of Dr. Lawrence L. Lacour and the sponsorship of the Japan N.C.C., and using the service of nearly 200 American pastors and laymen. Through this crusade 30 self-supporting churches were added to the Kyodan.

Members of the 1966 Summer Evangelism Team : (Director) Rev. Franklin J. Hinkamp, and Mrs. Hinkamp (RCA), Rev. Theodore Zanstra (RCA), Rev. and Mrs. Harry L. Brower (RCA), Rev. James C. Fulbright (MC), Rev. and Mrs. Thomas F. Hudson (UPC), Rev. and Mrs. Kenneth E. Jones (Christian), Rev. and Mrs. Maxwell J. Webb (Christian), Rev. and Mrs. Arthur C. Kroehler (UC), Rev. Robert J.D. Morris (UCC), Rev. C. Gardner Ward (UCC), Rev. and Mrs. Alan Reynolds (UCC), Rev. Vernon P. Schroeder (EUB), Rev. Melvin G. Sponsler Jr. (EUB), Rev. Charles F. Stanton (EUB), Rev. and Mrs. Wayne P. Todd (PCUS).

CHURCH PROFILE

Hakone, one of Japan's resort areas famous for its gorgeous scenery and hot springs, appears before the footlights of evangelism. A preaching place was started here by a Christian businessman, who proposed to offer \$30,000 in order to establish a new church in Hakone. His hopes and efforts are supported by the Kyodan's Evangelism Committee.

The Rev. Hidetoshi Ikemiya, who was assigned as a pastor for this new project, said, when the establishment service was held on March 20, "I think there are five types of mission for our church: 1. Mission to 23,000 Hakone residents, 2. Mission to service men of hotels and short term residents, 3. Mission to sightseers from all over the country and overseas, 4. Service for other churches who hold conferences in Hakone, 5. Community service. Christian love and service are needed here since more and more people come to enjoy holidays and vacation in this beautiful spot in Japan."

